

Message Text

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ACTION OES-07

INFO OCT-01 EA-10 ISO-00 SS-15 AID-05 EB-08 SP-02

AGRE-00 NSC-05 COME-00 OMB-01 TRSE-00 H-01

CIAE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00 /065 W

-----096317 241417Z /64

R 240325Z MAY 78

FM AMEMBASSY JAKARTA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8953

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: SPOP

SUBJECT: PRESSING GLOBAL PROBLEMS - POPULATION GROWTH AND FOOD
PRODUCTION

REF: (A) STATE 107370, (B) JAKARTA 1702

1. INDONESIA'S FUTURE STABILITY, INDEED ITS CONTINUING LONGER TERM EXISTENCE AS A MODERATE, RELATIVELY OPEN SOCIETY WITH AN ECONOMY BASED ON FREE MARKET PRINCIPLES, IS CONDITIONED ON ABILITY OF INDONESIAN GOVERNMENT TO DEAL MORE EFFECTIVELY WITH THE POPULATION/FOOD/EMPLOYMENT PROBLEMS AND THEREBY MEET THE BASIC NEEDS OF THE POOR POPULACE IN THE RURAL AREAS. SHORTLY AFTER MY ARRIVAL I UNDERTOOK AN INTENSIVE REVIEW OF INDONESIA'S FOOD PROBLEM. THE CONCLUSIONS OF THIS REVIEW, ALONG WITH RECOMMENDATIONS FOR A SIGNIFICANT EXPANSION OF U.S. ECONOMIC ASSISTANCE IN THE AGRICULTURAL SECTOR, WERE FORWARDED IN REF B. BASED ON ADDITIONAL EXPERIENCE OVE THE PAST FOUR MONTHS, I AM MORE CONVINCED THAN EVER THAT INDONESIA MUST DEVELOP A COMPREHENSIVE FOOD/NUTRITION STRATEGY AIMED AT MEETING BASIC HUMAN NEEDS THROUGH INCREASED PRODUCTION OF FOOD, REDUCTION OF FOOD IMPORTS, AND THE CREATION OF JOBS AND INCOME THROUGH RURAL BASED INVESTMENTS. THE USAID'S ANNUAL BUDGET SUBMISSION, WHICH I HAVE JUST CLEARED AS TO PROGRAM CONTENT, SEEMS TO ME

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A WELL DESIGNED AND PARTICULARLY ATTRACTIVE PROGRAM FOR U.S. ASSISTANCE FOR BOTH POPULATION AND AGRICULTURE.

2. THE INDONESIAN FAMILY PLANNING PROGRAM IS RECEIVING WELL DESERVED INTERNATIONAL ACCLAIM FOR ITS IMPRESSIVE ACCOMPLISHMENTS. RESULTS OF INTER-CENSAL SURVEY OF 1976 HAVE NOW BEEN ANALYZED TO THE POINT WHERE SOME MAJOR CONCLUSIONS CAN BE DRAWN

REGARDING IMPACT OF INDONESIAN FAMILY PLANNING PROGRAM. DURING PERIOD 1967 TO 1976 FERTILITY DECLINED 34 PERCENT FOR BALI AND 15 PERCENT FOR ALL JAVA/BALI. TODAY'S POPULATION GROWTH RATE IS NOW SLIGHTLY BELOW 2 PERCENT COMPARED TO THE 2.4 PERCENT THAT LIKELY WOULD HAVE PREVAILED IN THE ABSENCE OF FAMILY PLANNING. DESPITE THIS SUCCESS, EXCESSIVE POPULATION PRESSURE CONTINUES TO BE A MAJOR CAUSE OF POVERTY IN INDONESIA, PARTICULARLY ON JAVA, WHERE SIMPLY PUT, THERE ARE FAR TOO MANY PEOPLE ON TOO LITTLE LAND.

3. SINCE PRESIDENT SUHARTO'S RECENT INAUGURATION I HAVE CLEARLY DISCERNED IN CONVERSATIONS WITH CABINET OFFICIALS AND OTHER RANKING GOVERNMENT AUTHORITIES A RENEWED, AND WHAT APPEARS TO BE SINCERE, COMMITMENT TO DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMS AFFECTING BASIC HUMAN NEEDS OF THE POOR POPULATION. GREATER EQUITY THROUGH GOVERNMENT PROGRAMS DESIGNED TO IMPROVE JOB OPPORTUNITIES AND INCOME IN RURAL AREAS WAS A PROMINENT ASPECT OF PRESIDENT SUHARTO'S ACCEPTANCE SPEECH. THESE POINTS WERE REAFFIRMED WHEN I RAISED THIS PROBLEM ON MAY 11 WITH MINISTER OF STATE WIDJOJO, SUHARTO'S TOP ECONOMIC PLANNER. THIS WILL ALSO BE THE MAIN THEME OF THE INDONESIAN THIRD FIVE YEAR PLAN. IN FUTURE CONVERSATIONS WITH THE INDONESIAN LEADERSHIP I WILL CONTINUE TO TAKE EVERY OPPORTUNITY TO STRESS THE IMPORTANCE OF VIGOROUS ACTION IN PURSUIT OF FOOD PRODUCTION AND POPULATION CONTROL OBJECTIVES DRAWING ON GUIDANCE REF A AS APPROPRIATE.
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4. I BELIEVE U.S. ECONOMIC ASSISTANCE PROGRAMS UNDER WAY AND PROPOSED IN FY 80 ANNUAL BUDGET SUBMISSION WILL MAKE A SUBSTANTIAL CONTRIBUTION, IN ACCORDANCE WITH AID'S BASIC HUMAN NEEDS POLICY, TOWARD THE ATTAINMENT OF INDONESIAN DEVELOPMENT GOALS. THE FY 80 ANNUAL BUDGET SUBMISSION EXPANDS ON MY ASSESSMENT OF THE FOOD SITUATION IN REF B, PROPOSES A NUMBER OF NEW PROJECT INITIATIVES FOR AGRICULTURE, AND RECOMMENDS A SUBSTANTIAL INCREASE IN THE LEVEL OF AID RESOURCES. THE PRIMARY OBJECTIVE OF U.S. ECONOMIC ASSISTANCE TO INDONESIA OVER THE NEXT FIVE YEARS WILL BE TO INCREASE AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTIVITY AND AS A RESULT INCREASE JOBS AND INCOMES IN THE RURAL AREAS. THIS WILL INVOLVE ACTIVITIES IN: HIGHER AGRICULTURAL EDUCATION (TITLE XII); AGRICULTURAL RESEARCH; LOCAL GOVERNMENT DEVELOPMENT; AND SELECTED BASIC RURAL INFRASTRUCTURE PROJECTS (E.G., RURAL ELECTRIFICATION, FEEDER ROADS, AND SMALL-SCALE IRRIGATION) WHICH ARE INNOVATIVE IN THEIR APPROACH TO ADDRESSING MAJOR INSTITUTIONAL SHORTCOMINGS IMPEDING ATTAINMENT OF GREATER RETURNS ON INVESTMENTS IN THE RURAL AREAS.

5. THE USAID PROGRAM WILL CONTINUE TO SUPPORT THE INDONESIAN

GOVERNMENT'S AMBITIOUS OBJECTIVE OF REDUCING POPULATION GROWTH
BY 1985 TO 1.2 PERCENT THROUGH THE PROVISION OF FAMILY
PLANNING COMMODITIES AND ASSISTANCE TO HELP EXPAND THE
GOVERNMENT'S FAMILY PLANNING PROGRAM TO THE OUTER ISLANDS
WHERE THE BIRTH RATE IS HIGHER THAN ON JAVA AND BALI. AID
RECENTLY APPROVED A PROJECT PAPER WHICH SETS FORTH A FIVE-YEAR
PROGRAM OF ASSISTANCE FOR THE GOI FAMILY PLANNING EFFORT TO A TOTAL
AID FUNDING LEVEL OF \$65 MILLION. FOR FY 80, USAID IS PRO-
POSING A NEW PROJECT WHICH RESPOND TO THE NEED TO IMPROVE WELFARE
OF YOUNG CHILDREN WHO ARE THREATENED WITH PROTEIN-CALROIE
MALNUTRITION. THE PROJECT, WHICH WILL BE ADMINISTERED THROUGH
THE INDONESIAN FAMILY PLANNING PROGRAM, MELDS THE INDONESIAN
GOVERNMENT'S DESIRE FOR CHILD SPACING AND A SMALL FAMILY NORM
WITH A DEMONSTRABLE CONCERN FOR LIVING CHILDREN.
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6. I WILL REPORT ON A CONTINUING BASIS SUBSTANTIVE CONVERSATIONS
WITH INDONESIAN GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS REGARDING PROGRAMS TO DEAL
MORE EFFECTIVELY WITH THE PROBLEMS OF BASIC HUMAN NEEDS.

DECONTROL FOLLOWING 5/19/79
MASTERS

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 jan 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: POPULATION, AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTION, FOODS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 24 may 1978
Decaption Date: 01 jan 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 20 Mar 2014
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1978JAKART06767
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D780218-1211
Format: TEL
From: JAKARTA
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1978/newtext/t19780522/aaaaarzc.tel
Line Count: 143
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: 83004597-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION OES
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 78 STATE 107370, 78 JAKARTA 1702
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 30 apr 2005
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 2579388
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: PRESSING GLOBAL PROBLEMS - POPULATION GROWTH AND FOOD PRODUCTION
TAGS: SPOP, SWEL
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odhc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/83004597-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Sheryl P. Walter
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
20 Mar 2014
Markings: Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014